

## CLAIMS

1. A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having a specific surface area of not more than  $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , an aspect ratio of not more than 6, and a tapping bulk density of not less than  $0.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .
2. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein an oxidation initiation temperature of said graphite powder is not less than  $600^\circ\text{C}$ .
3. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein when said powder is subject to pressure to give said powder a bulk density of  $1.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , a specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than  $0.06 \text{ } \Omega\text{cm}$ .
4. A carbon material for a lithium battery, consisting of graphite powder having a tapping bulk density of not less than  $0.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than  $600^\circ\text{C}$ .
5. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4, wherein a specific surface area is not more than  $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

6. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein an aspect ratio is not more than 6.

7. A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having a specific surface area of not more than  $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and a tapping bulk density of not less than  $0.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , wherein when said powder is put under pressure to give said powder a bulk density of  $1.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , a specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than  $0.06 \Omega \text{ cm}$ .

8. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder has an average particle size of from 8 to  $30 \mu\text{m}$ .

9. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder has an average particle size of from 8 to  $30 \mu\text{m}$ .

10. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder contains substantially no particles having a particle size of  $3 \mu\text{m}$  or less and/or  $53 \mu\text{m}$  or more.

11. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in

claim 3, wherein the graphite powder contains substantially no particles having a particle size of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and/or 53  $\mu\text{m}$  or more.

12. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphite powder contains substantially no particles having a particle size of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and/or 53  $\mu\text{m}$  or more.

13. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 9, wherein the graphite powder contains substantially no particles having a particle size of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and/or 53  $\mu\text{m}$  or more.

14. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder has a  $\text{Co}$  value of 6.745  $\text{\AA}$  or less.

15. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder has a  $\text{Co}$  value of 6.745  $\text{\AA}$  or less.

16. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphite powder has a  $\text{Co}$  value of 6.745  $\text{\AA}$  or less.

17. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 9, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.745 Å or less.

18. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 10, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.745 Å or less.

19. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 11, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.745 Å or less.

20. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 12, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.745 Å or less.

21. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 13, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.745 Å or less.

22. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

23. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

24. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

25. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 9, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

26. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 10, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

27. The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 11, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

28. A paste for a negative electrode of a battery, wherein said paste is obtained from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material by adding polyvinylidene fluoride powder thereto and kneading.

29. A paste for a negative electrode of a battery, wherein said paste is obtained from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material by adding polyvinylidene fluoride powder thereto and kneading.

30. A battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material.

31. A battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material.

32. A lithium battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material.

33. A lithium battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material.